

NEW JERSEY ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE UPDATE FEBRUARY 11, 2005

As of February 9, 1,199 trees have been removed from the Middlesex/Union ALB infestation site. Of those, 457 were infested host trees and 742 were high-risk exposed host trees. Crews continued to work this week in the residential areas of Carteret. Although 411 trees were initially identified as infested through ground and tree-climbing surveys, an additional 46 have been found to be infested as tree-cutting has progressed.

Currently, 11 program personnel from USDA APHIS PPQ, NJDA and NJ Forest Service are performing survey and regulatory activities in the Middlesex/Union ALB infestation site. Seven program personnel continue to perform survey and regulatory activities in the Jersey City quarantine area.

On February 10, Barry Emens, USDA-APHIS New Jersey ALB Cooperative Eradication Program Director, provided a program update on the tree removal process being conducted in the Middlesex/Union infestation site to Woodbridge's Mayor, its Department of Public Works and Public Information Office. The report highlighted Public Service Electric and Gas Company's removing a number of host trees under power lines adjacent to the New Jersey Turnpike within the quarantine area running between Linden and Woodbridge in support of the ALB Program.

On Wednesday, February 16, program officials with the USDA and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture will meet with Rahway officials to provide information concerning the program's tree removal process being conducted in the Middlesex/Union infestation site.

Program personnel will remain on-site during the tree removal process to address concerns from homeowners and to ensure operations continue to run smoothly.

The Newark *Star-Ledger* ran an update story in its Feb. 9 edition on the tree removal process being conducted in Middlesex/Union area. The story highlighted the results of a DNA test, which determined the infestation to be a separate introduction and not the result of beetles spreading from any other ALB infestation sites in North America. The story also mentioned the "outstanding cooperation" the program is receiving from homeowners who are losing trees.